

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00  
USIE-00 INRE-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00  
PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01  
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 DHA-02 ACDA-07 /079 W  
-----281308Z 027990 /46

O P 281140Z APR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1249  
INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY KABUL PRIORITY  
AMCONSUL KARACHI PRIORITY  
AMCONSUL LAHORE PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY MANILA PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN  
CINCPAC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 ISLAMABAD 4260

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

MANILA FOR AMBASSADOR BYROADE

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PK, PINS  
SUBJECT: PAKISTAN POLITICAL SITUATION

SUMMARY: SOME FORM OF DIALOGUE IS GOING ON BETWEEN BHUTTO'S  
SIDE AND THE DETAINED LEADERS OF THE PAKISTAN NATIONAL  
ALLIANCE ASSEMBLED NEAR RAWALPINDI. THE PM HAS EVIDENTLY  
PASSED NEW PROPOSALS TO THEM, AND THE ALLIANCE LEADERS ARE  
GIVING THESE CAREFUL CONSIDERATIONS. IT SEEMS LIKELY THAT  
THE PROPOSALS INCLUDE A PROVISION FOR FRESH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY  
ELECTION. THEY OBVIOUSLY DO NOT INCLUDE THE PNA-DEMANDED  
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RESIGNATION OF THE PM, BUT THAT MAY NO LONGER BE AN INSUPERABLE  
STUMBLING BLOCK. BHUTTO'S NEGOTIATING HAND HAS BEEN STRENGTHENED  
BY A STATEMENT ISSUED BY THE MILITARY SERVICE CHIEFS AND BY  
THE CALM WHICH GENERALLY CONTINUES TO PREVAIL THROUGHOUT  
PAKISTAN. RETIRED GENERAL TIKKA KHAN, FORMER ARMY CHIEF OF  
STAFF, HAS JOINED BHUTTO'S CABINET AS MINISTER OF STATE FOR  
DEFENCE AND NATIONAL SECURITY. END SUMMARY.

1. DESPITE CONFLICTING ACCOUNTS AND UNVERIFIABLE RUMORS, BOTH COMPOUNDED BY SEMANTIC GAMESMANSHIP ON THE PART OF PM BHUTTO AND ACTING PNA CHIEF PIR OF PAGARO IN THEIR SEPARATE COMMENTS TO THE PRESS LAST NIGHT, A NUMBER OF CONCLUSIONS CAN BE DRAWN ABOUT THE PRESENT STATE OF PLAY IN THE CONTINUING PAKISTAN POLITICAL CONFRONTATION.

2. SOME FORM OF DIALOGUE IS GOING ON BETWEEN THE PM'S SIDE AND THE DETAINED PNA LEADERS NOW ASSEMBLED AT SIHALA REST HOUSE NEAR HERE. DESPITE BHUTTO'S AMBIGUOUS COMMENT TO NEWMEN FOLLOWING A PPP PARLIAMENTARY PARTY MEETING THAT HE HAD EXHAUSTED HIS ABILITY AND HIS CAPACITY FOR MAKING PROPOSALS AFTER THE OPPOSITION HAD "SUMMARILY REJECTED" SO MANY OF THESE, IT IS REASONABLY CLEAR THAT THE PM HAS PASSED TO THE ALLIANCE LEADERS A NEW FORMULATION WHICH GOES BEYOND THE "YAHYA BAKHTIAR PLAN," APPARENTLY THE LAST FORMAL OFFER HE MADE TO THEM BEFORE HE HAD THEM BROUGHT TO SIHALA.

3. THE PNA IS GIVING CAREFUL CONSIDERATION TO THE PROPOSALS. PAGARO'S STATEMENT TO THE PRESS THAT THE PNA WANTED TO SHOW THE WORLD THAT IT WANTED NEGOTIATIONS IS SIGNIFICANT; TILL NOW THE PNA HAD PUBLICLY REJECTED BHUTTO'S CALLS FOR A DIALOGUE. ALSO SIGNIFICANT IN THE SAME CONNECTION IS ITS REQUEST TO HAVE FOUR OF ITS EMINENT CONSTITUTIONAL LAWYERS BROUGHT TO SIHALA FROM THEIR LAHORE JAIL TO JOIN IN THE DISCUSSIONS.

4. THE NATURE OF THE PROPOSALS IS UNCERTAIN. PAGARO HAS DECLINED TO DISCUSS THEM, BUT HAS SAID THAT THEY COME CLOSER  
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TO THE PNA STAND. IT SEEMS LIKELY THAT THEY INCLUDE A PROVISION FOR FRESH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS, THOUGH WHEN THESE WOULD TAKE PLACE AND WHAT ARRANGEMENTS WOULD BE MADE FOR THE INTERIM IS UNKNOWN. PAGARO DID NOT DISMISS THE POSSIBILITY OF TEMPORARY COALITION GOVERNMENT WHEN ASKED BY A QUESTIONER ABOUT THIS. AMONG OTHER INGREDIENTS MENTIONED IN THE PRESS ARE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW ELECTION COMMISSION, THE LIFTING OF THE EMERGENCY, THE DISBANDING OF SPECIAL TRIBUNALS, AND THE RELEASE OF POLITICAL DETENUS. NONE OF THESE REPORTS CAN BE CONFIRMED.

5. OBVIOUSLY, THE PROPOSALS DO NOT INCLUDE THE RESIGNATION OF THE PRIME MINISTER. THERE HAD BEEN HINTS EARLIER THAT THIS WOULD NOT BE AN INSUPERABLE STUMBLING BLOCK FOR THE PNA, AND THESE WERE REITERATED BY PAGARO. HE TOLD NEWSMEN THAT HE THOUGHT THERE COULD BE "ADJUSTMENTS" TO THE PNA'S STAND ON THIS ISSUE.

6. PAGARO ALSO TOLD THE PRESS THAT HE PLANNED TO RETURN TO SIHALA THIS MORNING FOR FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WITH HIS JAILED

COLLEAGUES. HE PROMISED TO MEET WITH THE NEWSMEN AGAIN TONIGHT,  
WHEN HE SAID HE WOULD ANSWER THEIR QUESTIONS MORE DIRECTLY.  
THE PRIME MINISTER IS SCHEDULED TO SPEAK IN PARLIAMENT AT  
FIVE-THIRTY THIS AFTERNOON.

7. WHILE THESE POLITICAL MANEUVERINGS WERE GOING ON, BHUTTO'S  
NEGOTIATING HAND WAS STRENGTHENED BY A JOINT STATEMENT MADE  
BY SENIOR MILITARY FIGURES AND GIVEN HEAVY PLAY ON RADIO AND  
TV AND IN THE PRESS. CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF  
COMMITTEE GENERAL SHARIFF, ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF GENERAL ZIA,  
NAVY CHIEF OF STAFF ADMIRAL SHARIFF, AND AIR CHIEF MARSHAL  
ZULFIQAR JOINTLY STATED THAT THEY "WISH TO MAKE IT ABSOLUTELY  
CLEAR THAT THE PAKISTAN ARMY, NAVY, AND AIR FORCE ARE TOTALLY  
UNITED TO DISCHARGE THEIR CONSTITUTIONAL OBLIGATIONS IN  
SUPPORT OF THE PRESENT LEGALLY CONSTITUTED GOVERNMENT ...."

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 ISLAMABAD 4260

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

MANILA FOR AMBASSADOR BROADE

THEY NOTED THAT "WHILE THE MILITARY CODE PROHIBITS THE SOLDIERS, SAILORS, AND AIRMEN TO HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH POLITICS, THE ARMED FORCES WHO BELONG TO THE NATION HAVE TO REMAIN ON CALL TO SAFEGUARD THE COUNTRY'S INTEGRITY WHEN THREATENED ON ACCOUNT OF EXTERNAL AGGRESSION OR INTERNAL SUBVERSION." THEY SAID THAT PARTICULAR VIGILANCE WAS NEEDED WHEN "THE INTERNAL TURMOIL AND CONSEQUENTIAL INSTABILITY OFFERS READY TEMPTATION TO UNSCRUPULOUS FOREIGN ELEMENTS TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE SITUATION." SHORTLY BEFORE THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE SERVICE CHIEFS REITERATED PLEDGE, A FORMER ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF, CONFIDENTIAL

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GENERAL (RETIRED) TIKKA KHAN, WAS SWORN IN AS MINISTER OF STATE FOR DEFENCE AND NATIONAL SECURITY. HE IS TO HAVE FULL CABINET RANK.

8. BHUTTO'S NEGOTATING HA U WAS ALSO STRENGTHENED BY THE CONTINUING GENERALLY PEACEFUL CONDITIONS IN THE COUNTRY. CURFEWS CONTINUE TO BE PROGRESSIVELY RELAXED IN THE MARTIAL LAW CITIES. THE GOVERNMENT HAS TAKEN MEASURES TO HEAD OFF THE PLANNED APRIL 30 PNA-SPONSORED "LONG MARCH" ON RAWALPINDI AND HAS BANNED MEETINGS IN THE FEDERAL CAPITAL AREA FOR A PERIOD OF ONE WEEK UNDER THE DEFENCE OF PAKISTAN RULES. ASKED ABOUT THE LONG MARCH  
PAGARO REPORTEDLY TOLD THE PRESS THAT  
HE HAD NEVER CALLED FOR SUCH  
A MARCH BUT THAT INSTEAD THE  
PNA WILL STAGE A MASSIVE DEMONSTRATION BY ASSEMBLING AT THE LIAQUAT BAGH GROUNDS IN RAWALPINDI ON THAT DAY.  
CONSTABLE

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## Message Attributes

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**To:** STATE  
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